In the Claims

1-25 (canceled).

26 (new). A method of preventing or treating a peripheral neurological disease comprising the administration of a composition comprising clusterin, an isoform, mutein, fused protein, functional derivative, active fraction, circularly permutated derivative, or salt thereof, or an agonist of clusterin activity to an individual having peripheral neurological disease.

27 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein the peripheral neurological disease is selected from the group consisting of traumatic nerve injury of the peripheral nervous system (PNS), demyelinating diseases of the PNS, peripheral neuropathies and peripheral neurodegenerative diseases.

28 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein the peripheral neurological disease is caused by a congenital metabolic disorder.

29 (new). The method according to claim 27, wherein the peripheral neurological disease is a peripheral neuropathy.

30 (new). The method according to claim 29, wherein the peripheral neuropathy is diabetic neuropathy.

31 (new). The method according to claim 29, wherein the peripheral neuropathy is chemotherapy-induced neuropathy.

32 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein the clusterin is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 23 to 449 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 35 to 449 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 23 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 35 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 228 to 449 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(g) a mutein of any of (a) to (f), wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 40 % or 50 % or 60 % or 70 % or 80 % or 90 % identity to at least one of the sequences in (a) to (f);

(h) a mutein of any of (a) to (f) which is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the native DNA sequence encoding any of (a) to (f) under moderately stringent conditions or under highly stringent conditions;

(i) a mutein of any of (a) to (f) wherein any changes in the amino acid sequence are conservative amino acid substitutions to the amino acid sequences in (a) to (f);

(j) a salt or an isoform, fused protein, functional derivative, active fraction or circularly permutated derivative of any of (a) to (f).

33 (new). The method according to claim 32, wherein the functional derivative comprises a PEG moiety.

34 (new). The method according to claim 34, wherein the fused protein comprises an immunoglobulin (Ig) fusion.

35 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein the composition further comprises heparin.

36 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein said composition is simultaneously, sequentially, or separately administered with a composition comprising heparin.

37 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein the composition further comprises an interferon, osteopontin, or both interfereon and osteopontin, for simultaneous, sequential, or separate use.

38 (new). The method according to claim 37, wherein the interferon is interferon-β.

39 (new). The method according to claim 26, wherein the clusterin is used in an amount of about 0.001 to 100 mg/kg of body weight, or about 1 to 10 mg/kg of body weight, or about 5 mg/kg of body weight.

40 (new). A method of preventing or treating a peripheral neurological disease comprising the administration of a nucleic acid molecule, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes:

a) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 1;

b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 23 to 449 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 35 to 449 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

d) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 23 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

e) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 35 to 227 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

f) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 228 to 449 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

g) a mutein of any of (a) to (f), wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 40% or 50% or 60% or 70% or 80% or 90% identity to at least one of the sequences in (a) to (e);

h) a mutein of any of (a) to (f) which is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the native DNA sequence encoding any of (a) to (f) under moderately stringent conditions or under highly stringent conditions;

i) a mutein of any of (a) to (f) wherein any changes in the amino acid sequence are conservative amino acid substitutions to the amino acid sequences in (a) to (f); or an isoform, fused protein, functional derivative, active fraction or circularly permutated derivative of any of (a) to (f).

41 (new). The method according to claim 40, wherein the nucleic acid molecule further comprises an expression vector sequence.

42 (new). A method of preventing or treating a peripheral neurological disease comprising the administration of a cell that has been genetically modified to produce clusterin, or an agonist of clusterin activity.

43 (new). A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) clusterin, or an agonist of clusterin activity, and heparin, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

b) clusterin, or an agonist of clusterin activity, and an interferon, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients; or

c) clusterin, or an agonist of clusterin activity, and osteopontin, optionally together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.